

Claim Amendments

1-20. (canceled)

21. (new) A method for monitoring and exchanging data between an external data storage unit and at least one stationary computer unit, the stationary computer unit being connected via at least one connection port and a data connection to the external data storage unit, and an operating program on the stationary computer unit continuously monitoring the at least one connection port for a data connection to an external data storage unit, characterized in that in case of an existing data connection via a connection port, the operating program detects the generation of a voltage pulse by a pulse generator connected to the data connection and located on the external data storage unit and subsequently initiates a mutual data exchange between the external data storage unit and the stationary computer via the data connection.

22. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the data are transferred via the data connection as data packets, wherein the operating program controls the data exchange in such a way that, via

an existing data connection, the operating program can simultaneously control the data exchange and detect a voltage pulse generated by the pulse generator, wherein the detection of the voltage pulse by the operating program is executed between the sequentially transferred data packets.

23. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the external data storage unit is integrated as an additional data storage drive into the data storage administration of the stationary computer unit.

24. (new) The method according to claim 21, wherein the voltage pulse generated by the pulse generator is temporarily stored as a change in a memory log in the data storage unit and is read out at a later point in time by the operating program via the existing data connection, wherein the memory log is initialized with the read out.

25. (new) A computer readable operating program on a stationary computer unit, the operating program being configured to

be run on the stationary computer unit to execute monitoring and exchanging of data between an external data storage unit and the stationary computer unit, the stationary computer unit being connected via at least one connection port and a data connection to the external data storage unit, the operating program being configured to continuously monitor the at least one connection port for a data connection to an external data storage unit, wherein in case of an existing data connection via a connection port, the operating program is configured to detect the generation of a voltage pulse by a pulse generator connected to the data connection and located on the external data storage unit and subsequently initiate a mutual data exchange between the external data storage unit and the stationary computer via the data connection.

26. (new) A method of monitoring and exchanging data between an external data storage unit and a computer, said computer comprising a connection port, said external data storage unit comprising a connecting device and a signal generator, said method comprising the steps of:

running a program on said computer and monitoring, with said

program, said connection port for a signal from said external data storage unit;

operatively connecting said connecting device of said external data storage unit to said connection port of said computer;

manually actuating, by a physical movement of a user, said signal generator in said external data storage unit, independently of all other functions and functioning of said computer and subsequent to operatively connecting said external data storage unit to said computer, and generating a signal;

detecting with said program the generated signal from said external data storage unit and subsequently initiating a mutual data exchange between said external data storage unit and said computer; and

exchanging data between said external data storage unit and said computer.

27. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises executing a single, manual stroke.

28. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said signal generator in said data storage unit comprises a push button, and said step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises manually pushing said push button in a single, manual stroke.

29. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said step of exchanging data comprises exchanging data packets.

30. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said program is configured to simultaneously control the exchange of data and monitor and detect an additional signal generated by said signal generator.

31. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 30, wherein:
said method further comprises, during the exchanging of data, continuing monitoring with said program said connection port for an additional signal from said external data storage unit, and, upon the generation of a signal by manual actuation of said signal generator, detecting the signal in between the transfer of two sequential data packets; and

said step of exchanging data comprises synchronizing data of a pre-defined hard drive area of said computer with data of said external data storage unit.

32. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein:

said signal generator is configured to be accessed by said program in said computer as a virtual drive, said virtual drive not being used as a traditional drive, but selected communication commands for control of said virtual drive by said program are automatically transformed for monitoring a signal generated by said signal generator, wherein said signal generator is accessible as a virtual drive only by said program and is not integrated into a data storage administration of said computer;

said connecting device comprises one of: a USB cable, a FireWire cable, a CardBus, a PC Card, a parallel cable, a serial cable, or an infrared device, to permit connection with a corresponding connection port of a computer;

said method further comprises the steps of:

activating an optical indicator of said external data storage unit to provide a visual indication to a user that data is being exchanged,

said optical indicator comprising a light-emitting device;

temporarily storing the signal generated by said signal generator
as a change in a memory log in said data storage unit;

reading out the signal at a later point in time with said
program; and

newly initializing said memory log with the read out.

33. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein:

said external data storage unit is integrated as an additional
data storage drive into a data storage administration of said
computer;

said connecting device comprises one of: a USB cable, a
FireWire cable, a CardBus, a PC Card, a parallel cable, a serial
cable, or an infrared device, to permit connection with a
corresponding connection port of a computer;

said method further comprises the steps of:

activating an optical indicator of said external data storage unit
to provide a visual indication to a user that data is being exchanged,
said optical indicator comprising a light-emitting device;

temporarily storing the signal generated by said signal generator

as a change in a memory log in said data storage unit;
reading out the signal at a later point in time with said
program; and
newly initializing said memory log with the read out.

34. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 25, wherein:
said signal generator comprises a pulse generator configured to
generate a voltage pulse;
said program comprises an operating program;
said computer comprises a stationary computer unit; and
said step of monitoring with said program said connection port
comprises continuously monitoring with said operating program said
connecting port.

35. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 34, wherein said
step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises executing
a single, manual stroke.

36. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 35, wherein said
signal generator in said data storage unit comprises a push button,

and said step of manually actuating said signal generator comprises manually pushing said push button in a single, manual stroke.

37. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein:
said step of exchanging data comprises exchanging data packets; and
said program is configured to simultaneously control the exchange of data and monitor and detect an additional signal generated by said signal generator.

38. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:
said method further comprises, during the exchanging of data, continuing monitoring with said program said connection port for an additional signal from said external data storage unit, and, upon the generation of a signal by manual actuation of said signal generator, detecting the signal in between the transfer of two sequential data packets; and
said step of exchanging data comprises synchronizing data of a pre-defined hard drive area of said computer with data of said external data storage unit.

39. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said signal generator is configured to be accessed by said program in said computer as a virtual drive, said virtual drive not being used as a traditional drive, but selected communication commands for control of said virtual drive by said program are automatically transformed for monitoring a signal generated by said signal generator, wherein said signal generator is accessible as a virtual drive only by said program and is not integrated into a data storage administration of said computer;

said connecting device comprises one of: a USB cable, a FireWire cable, a CardBus, a PC Card, a parallel cable, a serial cable, or an infrared device, to permit connection with a corresponding connection port of a computer;

said method further comprises the steps of:

activating an optical indicator of said external data storage unit to provide a visual indication to a user that data is being exchanged, said optical indicator comprising a light-emitting device;

temporarily storing the signal generated by said signal generator as a change in a memory log in said data storage unit;

reading out the signal at a later point in time with said

program; and

newly initializing said memory log with the read out.

40. (new) The method as claimed in Claim 38, wherein:

said external data storage unit is integrated as an additional data storage drive into a data storage administration of said computer;

said connecting device comprises one of: a USB cable, a FireWire cable, a CardBus, a PC Card, a parallel cable, a serial cable, or an infrared device, to permit connection with a corresponding connection port of a computer;

said method further comprises the steps of:

activating an optical indicator of said external data storage unit to provide a visual indication to a user that data is being exchanged, said optical indicator comprising a light-emitting device;

temporarily storing the signal generated by said signal generator as a change in a memory log in said data storage unit;

reading out the signal at a later point in time with said program; and

newly initializing said memory log with the read out.